

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the final Office Action mailed on January 25, 2007. Presently, Claims 1-10 and 14-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-10, and 14-17 have been examined and stand rejected. Claim 2 is objected to. Reconsideration of Claims 1, 3-10, and 14-17 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The limitations of Claim 2 have been incorporated into the independent Claims 1, 14, 15, and 16. The limitations of Claim 2 have already been searched and have been found allowable. Therefore, Claims 1, 14, 15, and 16 must also be found allowable.

At the very least, Claims 1 and dependent Claims 3-10 must be found allowable.

The Rejection of Claims 16 and 17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,826,830 (Egitto et al.).

Claim 16 has been amended to recite the limitations of Claim 2. It is noted that Claim 2 has been found allowable, other than depending upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Claim 16 should be allowable.

Therefore, applicants submit that Claims 16 and 17 should be allowable over Egitto et al.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 9, 14, and 15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 9, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,826,830 (Egitto et al.) with U.S. Patent No. 5,258,094 (Furui et al.).

Claims 1, 14, and 15 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2. It is noted that Claim 2 has been found allowable, other than depending upon a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Claims 1, 14, and 15 should be allowable.

Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 9, 14, and 15 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, and 14-17 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0194303 (Kim et al.) with U.S. Patent No. 6,826,830 (Egitto et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,258,094 (Furui et al.).

Claims 1, 14, 15, and 16 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2, which has been found allowable. Therefore, Claims 1, 14, 15, and 16 should be allowable.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, and 14-17 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0194303 (Kim et al.) with U.S. Patent No. 6,826,830 (Egitto et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,258,094 (Furui et al.), as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,613,986 (Hirose).

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1. Claim 1 has incorporated the limitations of Claim 2, which has been found allowable. Therefore, Claim 6 must also be allowable. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment, applicants submit that Claims 1, 3-10, and 14-17 are allowable. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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